

Gentlemen of West London v. Wycombe House

Sunday 31 July, Wycombe House. Wycombe House won toss. Cloudy then sunny, 26C

Won by 5 wickets

Wycombe House			Gentlemen of West London			
Minhas	c R. Patel	b S. Patel	17	Gulati	b Chaudhry	39
Doshi	c Kota	b R. Patel	17	Chatharaju	c Adnan	0
Khawaja	run out (Namilikonda)		2	Kota	c A. Ahmed	62
Shaikh	c Gulati	b Kumar	82	Namilikonda	lbw	25
†Aftab	c Puli	b H. Patel	13	Krishna	c Khawaja	11
Ahmar	run out (Kota)		0	Puli	not out	34
*A. Ahmed	run out (Kota)		22	S. Patel	not out	23
Khan	not out		25	†Sudireddy, R. Patel, Kumar and *H. Patel dnb		
Osman	not out		25			
Adnan and Abbasi dnb			9			
Extras	w3 b5 lb5		13	Extras	w14 nb2 b5 lb4	5
Total	7 wickets	40 overs	215	Total	5 wickets	33.2 overs
FoW: 28, 38, 45, 118, 118, 156, 165				FoW: 18, 53, 100, 141, 153		
Bowling: Kumar 8-2-27-1, R. Patel 7-0-41-1, S. Patel 4-0-27-1, Gulati 5-3-6-0, Krishna 3-0-20-0, Kota 5-0-36-0, H. Patel 8-0-49-1				Bowling: Chaudhry 5-1-50-2, Adnan 7-0-53-0, Osman 5-0-22-1, Kalair 5-0-23-0, Abbasi 6.2-0-46-1, Khan 4-0-16-1		

Gents and a keen, young Wycombe House Sunday XI enjoyed themselves in an entertaining game rich in incident. After Vasi Shaikh had dominated the first innings with a powerful 82 (nine fours and three sixes), the visitors got off to an absolute flyer with 92 coming up in the first ten overs. They lost wickets but the rock Kota's calm assurance was decisive. The pitch, used by the 1s the day before, therefore produced 910 runs in two games for the loss of only 28 wickets. The welcome offered by House's players, officials and supporters was warm and friendly, the pizzas after the game being much appreciated.

It was a tough day logistically for House whose 1s were short for their Middlesex Trophy quarter-final at Southgate. They tried to co-opt Messrs. Ahmed and Shaikh who stood their ground to honour this fixture. The colts who made up the XI (actually 13 in rotation) were handy cricketers and they fielded the club's top batsman (Mr Ahmed himself with 796) and two of the top three bowlers (Adnan and Osman with 32 wickets each). Everything pointed to a well-balanced contest.

Gents' seamers immediately found their lines but the openers were sound till Doshi clipped a full toss to mid-off. Minhas soon picked out mid-on and Khawaja was run out, leaving 'keeper Aftab to support Shaikh in a good spell for House. Seam and spin came alike to the veteran and he looked on for a century. Aftab holed out to long on but the entry of Ahmed after Ahmar's sad run out promised great things. His first ball, from H. Patel, was a slow full-toss pulled over the pavilion into the premises of Seccombe the builder's merchant. Thirty-eight came up in five overs when Shaikh called his skipper for a single that was never on, Kota and Sudireddy doing the needful, the carnage and Sudireddy's brilliant celebration captured forever on YouTube via FrogBox during a rare lucid interval for the temperamental streaming service. Shaikh was well caught on the long on boundary, a deserved wicket for Kumar. Khan and Osman's stylish stand of 50 in 40 balls ended the innings.

Chatharaju fell early, mistiming a pull. Gulati was ablaze with seven fours and a six off only 27 balls and after he departed having played around a full toss it was his like for like replacement, Namilikonda, who bashed a quick 20. Kota was in peak form and with stout and intelligent support from Krishna (viciously sledged by Shaikh) fewer than a hundred were needed. House worked hard and got back into the game by dismissing Krishna and Kota in quick succession, but were unable to bowl Gents out, that being their only route to victory with run rate long since having ceased to be an issue. A stand of 66 in eight overs between Puli and S. Patel then won the day, Puli equalling his highest score, off only 26 balls.

Back to our new mate FrogBox. One aspect of the day was thoroughly modern, for good or ill. Ahmed, Burman and Khan were constant telephone contact with the 1s' impressive captain Hamzah Khan who is a technical guru. Indeed, the scorer's table looked like a thieves' kitchen of tech with four phones, two iPads and a host of cables. There was also the scorebook which was, for this day at least, as unloved as Jessie the Cowgirl in Toy Story. It sat sadly in the corner.